

REMARKS

Initially, applicants would like to thank Examiner Anderson for granting an interview and for her time spent in the interview. In addition, applicants would like to thank Supervisor Schwartz for attending the interview and for his input during the interview.

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 were previously pending in the application. Claims 3, 19 and 20 are canceled, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 18 for consideration. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 12-15, 19 and 20 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-11, 16 and 18 are rejected as anticipated by SUZUKI et al. 6,706,029. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 provides in part that each liquid barrier is, at least in the crotch portion of the product, in a region between an attachment to the absorbent product and each free edge, fixed to the adjacent side flap outside the edges of the absorbent body.

As pointed out at the interview, such recitation provides that the liquid barrier is connected to the absorbent product at a first location and fixed to the side flap at a second, different location that is between the first location and the free edge. The result of the above structure as discussed and further recited is a double raised leakage barrier.

As pointed out at the interview, Figure 2 of SUZUKI et al., for example, shows the barrier 7 connected at a single location, base 13, to both the flap 5 and the absorbent product, not two different locations (between a first location and a free edge). Accordingly, the arrangement of SUZUKI et al. does not have two attachment points and will result in only a single raised barrier.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, and 8 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over SUZUKI et al.

As discussed at the interview, claim 9 provides that the liquid barrier layer is fixed to an adjacent one of the side flaps, in a region between the free edge and where the liquid barrier extends from the absorbent product. Such limitation is not disclosed or suggested by SUZUKI et al..

Claims 10, 11, 16 and 18 depend from claim 9 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Withdrawn claims 4, 6, 7 and 12-15 depend from one of claims 1 and 9 and further define the invention. Accordingly,

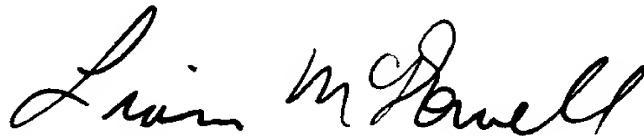
claims 1 and 9 are believed generic as to these claims and withdrawal of the election of species requirement is requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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